

**League of Women Voters of Duluth: Annual Meeting  
Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Duluth  
May 2, 2024  
5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m.**

**SECRETARY MINUTES**

**Call to Order:**

President Jane Hovland welcomed members and called the business meeting to order at 6:20 p.m.

**Establish a quorum:** Secretary Gwen Thorson reported attendance of 66 members of LWV Duluth, which constituted a quorum.

**Reading of the DEI Statement:**

Diane Sauer read the LWV Duluth Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Statement.

**Recognition of Past Presidents:**

President Jane Hovland acknowledged past presidents: Mary Evans, Sandy Grandmason, Triss Harwood, Maria Isley, Sally Munger, Joan Peterson, Mary Streufert, and Zandy Zweibel. Presidents not in attendance: Gay Trachsel, Candy Winkler, Chelsea Helmer, Christina Woods, and Mary Faulkner.

**President's Remarks:**

President Jane Hovland commented on the following: the history of LWV Duluth, the work of League committees, and the importance of elections with a reminder that League is nonpartisan and inclusive. Announcements included: forums and voter registration events will be happening, National Voter Registration Day on September 19, 2024 (including youths), statewide training for "Reduce the Rancor," LWV National Convention in Washington D.C. on June 27-30, Joyce Benson Scholarship details, and availability of the QR code for membership renewal. She also acknowledged the significant growth of the Observer Corps.

**Approval of Budget for 2024-2025:**

A **motion** was made (Jeri Quest) and **seconded** (Pam Kramer) to approve the budget, as submitted by the Budget Committee. **Motion passed unanimously.**

**Consent Agenda:**

A **motion** was made (Kathy Heltzer) and **seconded** (Zandy Zweibel) to approve the consent agenda, as submitted. **Motion passed unanimously.**

NOTE: Consent agenda included minutes of the May 2023 Annual Meeting, financial reports (2023-2024 Budget Report and 2023-2024 Audit Report). It also included committee reports: Membership; Communications; Events; Environmental Action; Voter

Services/Voter Registration/Voter Education; Diversity, Equity & Inclusion; Citizens in Action; and Book Club.

### **Nominating Committee Report & Vote of Membership on Leadership and Board members:**

Out-going Board members were thanked for their service. They include: Anita Gille, Katherine Rasley, Jeri Quest, Kay Allen, Sandy Grandmaison, and Candy Winkler.

The proposed nominating slate for Board members AND nominating committee members details were provided to the entire membership in a April 3, 2024 E-News and was available on our website. A **motion** was made (Theresa O’Gara) to approve the nominating slate, as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.** The following slate was approved: President (2024-25): Jane Hovland, 1st Vice President (2024-25): Theresa O’Gara, 2nd Vice President: Open, Secretary (2023-25): Gwen Thorson, Treasurer (2023-25): Nancy Aldridge. Continuing Board members (2023-25): Sue DeNio, Pam Kramer, Ellen Wiss. Board members (2024-26): Barb Possin, Faye Witt, Lori Dando. Appointed Board member (2024-25): Sue Henke. Emerita Board members: Portia Johnson, Gail Schoenfelder

A **motion** was made (Zandy Zweibel) and **seconded** (Jolene Boe) to approve the nominating committee slate, as presented. **Motion passed unanimously.** Nominating committee members: Nancy Aldridge, Susie Darley-Hill, Sandy Grandmaison, Sally Munger, Gay Trachsel, Candy Winkler, Ellen Wiss

### **Program of Action:**

A **motion** was made (Tina Welsh) and **seconded** (Katherine Kane) to approve continuation of the implementation of the “Principles of the League of Women Voters of the United States” and the action areas of LWV MN. **Motion passed unanimously.**

A proposed plan of study (“Housing Equity in Duluth”) was explained by Board members, Ellen Wiss and Pam Kramer. A **motion** was made (Diane Desotelle) and **seconded** (Mary Streufert) to approve the proposal. **Motion passed unanimously.**

### **Announcements:**

President Jane Hovland announced the LWV Plant & Book sale (June 8), voter registration opportunities will be available, and a reminder about the Fall Kickoff event.

### **Adjournment:**

The meeting was adjourned at 6:58 p.m.

The business meeting was followed by LWV Duluth’s Youth Civic Engagement Fellows as guest speakers. High school seniors, Leah Coleman, Natalie Pitrago, Ewan Moe, Ola Okoro, and Juniper Kelly-Swing commented on their experiences at East High School and Denfeld High School. Incoming fellows were introduced: Lorelei Schwensohn, Nissa Johnson, Azalea Steffes and Tavin Roth.

Respectfully submitted: Gwen Thorson, Secretary

